

Cincinnati
Recreation
Commission

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Annual Report
1999

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission

is dedicated to providing recreational and cultural activities for all people in our neighborhoods and the whole community. We believe that by enhancing people's personal health and wellness, we strengthen and enrich the lives of our citizens and build a spirit of community in our City.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission fortified the team approach to effect major accomplishments in 1999. Excitement and enthusiasm set the tone throughout the year as employees met to discuss goals and objectives.

Representing all branches of the department, employees rewrote the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's eight-year-old mission statement to redirect the department's focus from the administration of services to a stronger emphasis on customer service.



People at Play. Every Day. Every Way.

1999 Annual Report **C o n t e n t s**

page 2 Letter from the Director
page 3 Letter from the President

page 4 The Year in Review

Armleder Trust
page 5 National Football League, St. Clair Field
Kemper Fore Youth! Charity Golf Tournament
Millvale Computing Center
Tickets for Kids
Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs
1000 Hands Project
page 6 High Risk Comic Book
Teen Lounges and Socials
Golf Outreach
page 7 Athletics
Therapeutic Recreation
Volunteer Events
page 8 Corryville Recreation Center
Airport Playfield

page 9 Learn... Relax... Enjoy...
page 10 Recreation Center Spotlight on Success
page 12 1999 Financial Statements



NFL Flag Football participants at Spinney Field.
(opposite page) Children enjoy the Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center Day Camp

Dear Members of City Council, Recreation Commission Members and Citizens:

As the new millennium unfolds, I am pleased and proud to continue as the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) Director. My position provides me the unique privilege of implementing a new CRC theme that I believe earnestly embodies what CRC is all about:

People at Play. Every Day. Every Way.

“**The people principle is primary to the CRC strategy, starting with dedicated employees whose demonstration of teamwork is exemplary and matches my own commitment to the entire CRC employee team.**”

Simple in syntax, the new CRC theme signifies a complex and concerted strategy that must successfully converge so that the citizens of our City can indeed play every day in every way.

The caring support of City and community leaders and sponsors, so integral to our strategy and our success, often exceeds expectations. Their strong civic interest motivates the CRC family to continually set new goals and surpass those that have already been met.

CRC's future goals resonate with optimism based on a proven record of past accomplishments. But the bedrock of the CRC strategy is a strong resistance to relying on past achievements, no matter how impressive, and focusing on what is possible in the future. The very nature of vision is that it looks to the future. The CRC vision spans years ahead, incorporating positive change in the process, and bringing to fruition the plans and aspirations of the present CRC family. That is the CRC tradition. I am grateful to be part of the process and the tradition.

I am thankful to be a member of the CRC family and to contribute to the theme that pervades the CRC philosophy: People at Play. Every Day. Every Way.

On behalf of the CRC staff, we look forward to 2000 and the years beyond.



Wayne Bain, Director



Dear Members of City Council and Citizens:

If you look up the word recreation in the dictionary, the definition is: an activity that refreshes the mind or body through an amusing or stimulating activity. The dictionary further states that recreation implies something that restores strength, spirits and vitality. *Synonyms for recreation are diversion and enthusiasm.*

I couldn't have said it better.

I can only add that the Cincinnati Recreation Commission is not only dedicated to the literal concept of recreation, it has demonstrated throughout its history a zealous commitment to translating the definition into actual meaning and reality. That commitment has distinguished CRC in the national recreation field and continues to provide the impetus for providing excellence in service to the citizens of Cincinnati. CRC's services and facilities have expanded and broadened significantly this year, and I am honored to have played my part in the many achievements and accomplishments that are highlighted in our 1999 Annual Report.

The people of Cincinnati work hard. They deserve to play hard.

CRC's mission, value and vision statements are strategically designed to ensure that all the people in our communities and neighborhoods are provided with recreation, diversion and entertainment. *This truly restores their strength, spirit and vitality.*



Dan Gilday, President



“**... commitment has distinguished CRC in the national recreation field and continues to provide the impetus for providing excellence in service to the citizens of Cincinnati.**”

The Year in Review

4

Grants and Partnerships

In an unprecedented push to maximize departmental funding and outreach, CRC increased its efforts to win grants and to partner with outside organizations.

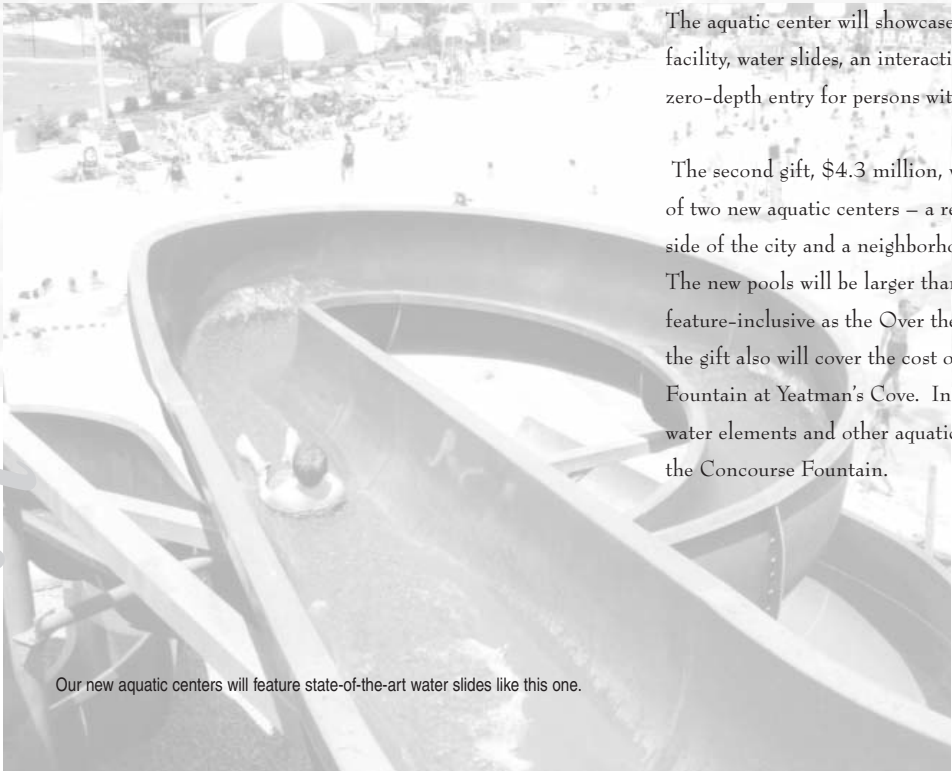
Armleder Trust

The Otto Armleder Trust topped the 1999 list when it awarded CRC grants totaling over \$9 million.

The first allocation, \$4.8 million, will be used to develop two sites: an aquatics center in Over the Rhine and a park and athletic complex on 350 acres across Beechmont Levee from the Airport Playfield. The park and athletic complex will be operated in conjunction with the Cincinnati Park Board and will feature nature trails, hike and bike trails, soccer and baseball fields, a children's playground, an accessible fishing area, and canoe egress and ingress points on the Little Miami River. Lowland areas for educational walks and field habitat also are planned.

The aquatic center will showcase a state-of-the-art swimming facility, water slides, an interactive water play area and zero-depth entry for persons with disabilities.

The second gift, \$4.3 million, will fund the construction of two new aquatic centers – a regional pool on the west side of the city and a neighborhood pool in Avondale. The new pools will be larger than existing CRC pools and as feature-inclusive as the Over the Rhine facility. Funds from the gift also will cover the cost of refurbishing the Concourse Fountain at Yeatman's Cove. In addition to repairs, interactive water elements and other aquatic features also are planned for the Concourse Fountain.



Our new aquatic centers will feature state-of-the-art water slides like this one.

5

The Year in Review

National Football League, St. Clair Field

A \$70,000 grant from the National Football League (NFL) to the North Fairmount Community Council provided funds to transform St. Clair Field into a regulation-size football field that will feature a jogging track, security lighting and an expanded parking lot. The grant is part of the NFL Community Football Fields Program (NFLCFFP) and represents only one of 18 gifts awarded in 1999. The NFLCFFP, a two-year-old program, is a partnership of the NFL Charities and LISC, the nation's largest community-development support organization.

Kemper Fore Youth! Charity Golf Tournament

In conjunction with Christ Hospital Sports Medicine Institute and sponsored by Kemper Sports Management, CRC launched the Fore Youth! Charity Golf Tournament. The event was extremely well received, raising \$28,000 that was equally divided between the Sports Medicine Institute and CRC. CRC's \$14,000 share is targeted for the popular overnight Outdoor Adventure Camp for children.

Millvale Computing Center

A grant of \$90,000 from the Ohio Community Computing Center Network coupled with funds from Cincinnati Bell enabled CRC to open the Millvale Community Computing Center (MCCC) in the Millvale Community Center. The MCCC is Cincinnati's first computer center dedicated to providing general community access to computers and computer technologies. The facility contains 20 computers installed with software that facilitates and enhances user skills in personal finance, preparation for a General Education Degree (GED), word processing, spread sheets, resume preparation, games, and access to e-mail and the Internet.

Tickets for Kids

Thanks to a partnership initiated in 1999 with TicketMaster, CRC distributed over 4000 tickets for Cincinnati sports and arts events. The tickets, valued at \$60,000, were distributed to recreation centers, area schools and social agencies that presented them to youth as incentives for positive behavior.

Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs

Over a thousand area children enjoyed a fishing experience in 1999 thanks to a partnership with the Cincinnati Police Division and the national Hooked on Fishing program. A \$75,000 grant from the Ohio Wildlife Division (OWL) provided transportation to fishing sports locations, materials and fees for other sporting events. Ohio Wildlife also provided the basic equipment that allowed each child the opportunity to fish. Due to OWL's support, the number of centers participating in the program more than tripled, from four in 1998 to 15 in 1999.

1000 Hands Project

The teamwork involved in the 1000 Hands Project built the largest playground in the City, a 14,600 square-foot facility at the Dunham Recreation Complex. With \$50,000 seed money from CRC, the project's partners, United Way and Life Success Seminars, Inc., teamed with members of the business community and volunteers and raised over \$150,000 in cash and materials to construct the playground. Working enthusiastically in rain and shine conditions with tools and materials that were donated, over 2000 employee and private citizen volunteers erected towers, slides, mazes, tunnels and other features that were specifically requested by community children. The entire project was completed in just five days.



A Rivertrek participant takes a swim on a hot day.

The Year in Review

This happy trio proudly displays their winning awards from a YGA event.

A 1000 Hands Project volunteer helps to build a playground at the Dunham Recreation Complex.

The Year in Review

CRC made major capital improvements in 1999, topped by the opening of the new 20,000-square-foot recreation center in Corryville that replaces the outdated center purchased by University of Cincinnati.

Corryville Recreation Center

The first new center to be built since 1994, Corryville Center's unique design is a departure from centers built in the early 1980s and '90s. Site specific, the building reflects the visionary nature of the University's recent signature architecture while maintaining the Victorian shapes and scale of surrounding structures. In addition to a gym, state-of-the-art weight room and multi-purpose rooms, the facility provides features not available at other CRC centers, including a climbing wall and a dance room with a sprung-wood floor, ballet bar and wall mirrors.

Attesting to the urgent need for programs for elementary and teenage students, the center and its programs have attracted record numbers of young people.

Lunken Airport Playfield

Other capital improvements in 1999 include improvements at the Airport Playfield and two new buildings -- the Marian L. Ahlering Complex and the Carl and Edyth Lindner Family Tennis Center. These additions are intended to make the site more user friendly when the 2000 season opens. The Marian L. Ahlering Complex will serve as the new entrance to the Land of Make Believe, housing bike rentals, concession stands and adequate restroom facilities for participants. The Carl and Edyth Lindner Family Tennis Center will bring the tennis facilities to the standard required for city-wide tournaments by providing showers, lockers and restrooms for tennis enthusiasts. The Airport Playfield bike trail was relocated, widened and repaved in critical areas.

Capital Improvement Projects in Progress

The National Steamboat Monument on the Riverfront

New recreation centers in College Hill and Madisonville

Renovations and additions to the Lincoln Recreation Center

Renovation of the former Allen House

(replacing the Dunham Recreation Complex's two centers)

Renovation of Spinney Field

Construction of eight teen centers.



Kids at Play. Every Day. Every Way.

8

9

Learn... Relax... Enjoy...

Central Waterfront Properties

Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point, Yeatman's Cove, Concourse Fountain, Serpentine Wall and the

Procter & Gamble Performance Pavilion offer a panoramic river view, world-class architecture and landscaping. The park also provides crowd-conducive facilities and a breathtaking backdrop for the myriad public and commercial special events, including the spectacular Riverfest, that take place here throughout the year and attract legions of individuals, families and groups.

Tall Stacks: CRC once more got on board this citywide effort that draws hundred of thousands of visitors from across the nation to CRC's Central Waterfront to view the historic and pituresque paddlewheelers that grace our waterways every four years.

Showboat Majestic: The nation's only floating theater showcased five popular and well-attended productions.

Educational

CRC continues to teach the American Red Cross Water Safety Instruction Course that prepares individuals over age 15 for lifeguard responsibilities at CRC's 46 pools throughout the city and provides over 300 part-time summer jobs. Swim Stroke Clinics, designed to teach and refine swimming skills in preparation for American Red Cross Lifeguard Training classes, remain an integral part of lifeguard training.

Countless classes and courses representing various interests and age groups crowd the CRC calendar. Whether it's workshops, crafts or hobbies, CRC makes every effort to meet the needs of existing or potential participants.

As an auxiliary premise to the CRC theme

People at Play. Every Day. Every Way.

Leisure and Cultural

CRC believes that *people who play together, learn together, and enjoy leisure activities together are promoting a harmony of collective well being that transcends all diversity engendered barriers.*

The Black History Celebration -- Taste of Africa, Martin Luther King Celebration, and the Black Family Reunion at Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point illustrate CRC's commitment to facilitating events that promote diversity and positive race relations. Leisure and cultural activities commingle in many cases. Whether CRC facilitates or hosts the myriad concerts, parties, little theater group productions, flower sales, egg hunts, or the American Birthday Party on the Fourth of July, we are motivated by the challenge of making the experience enjoyable for as many people as possible.

What began as an altruistic goal to instill in young people an appreciation for the written word, the CRC's Region-Wide Literary Arts Program has proven an unqualified success. Geared to elementary-age children and teenagers, the program provides a broad range of literary arts activities that expose young people to prose and poetry of all genres-- from classic to rap. Children also are encouraged to participate by reading and writing or telling a story. In addition to fostering an appreciation of the written word, the program is designed to help children express themselves through writing or speaking.

Spotlight on Success

Ebersole Community Center is located near the banks of the Ohio and Little Miami Rivers in California, Ohio. It is an historic, four-room Schoolhouse built in 1870. The Recreation Commission took possession of the building in the 1950's and added central heat, water and indoor bathrooms!

Ebersole Center

Adhering to heritage, the "Little Red Schoolhouse" is still a building where learning, teamwork, and sportsmanship take place. Although space is limited, we offer a wide range of programs appealing to all age groups, from our successful preschool soccer classes to our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner that is planned and prepared by the Seniors who attend many of our classes. We offer quality Watercolor classes that are taught by well known local instructors, a Ceramics Club in its 20th year, Step Aerobics, Quilting and many more Adult & Senior programs.

For youth, we have Afterschool Day Camp, A Conversational Spanish Summer Day Camp, Ceramics, Cooking, Arts/Crafts, Youth Sports, and Science/Nature Studies. We also are part of the HOOKED ON FISHING, NOT ON DRUGS program. And we are one of the few Karate Schools offering classes for children ages 5-7 as well as classes for 8 and older. Every summer the Camp hosts an Annual Kiddie Karnival with donations from area business totaling \$1000 or more. Summer Day Camp observed it's fourth year partnership with Coney Island's Sunlight Pool where weekly swims are held. In 1999, we formed a Teens' Basketball Team--quite a feat for a center without a gym! Fifteen young men representing four different East-side schools played on our team. We also launched Teen Nights where youth socialize in planned events.

We are an integral part of the community, a place where people can call to schedule a meeting, host a Red Cross CPR class, get an answer to a question or just get together for some fun. We host the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Party and Christmas Party for the California Community Council. We also coordinated an Old Fashioned Memorial Day Parade in conjunction with VFW Post 3627. Also, in 1999, we secured a partnership with Four Seasons Marina Membership, who donated more than

\$1000 to the Council to help fund parties and give Kroger Holiday Gift Certificates to the Seniors in town.

We actively pursued involvement in every aspect of Community life here on the banks of the Ohio and Little Miami Rivers.

We think we've succeeded!

Children of Ebersole Recreation Center take a "South of the Border" approach to Recreation Day on Fountain Square.



Spotlight on Success



Participants pose before taking off on an Over the Rhine Center field trip.

The Over-the-Rhine Community Center is a multifaceted facility with programs for all ages. With a heated indoor pool that is open year round, roller skating rink, full gymnasium, hammer-strength weight room, an Eighth Degree Grand Master who provides free instruction for children and free Tai Chi instruction for adults and seniors, it is the one of the CRC's biggest and busiest centers. A summer day camp that enrolls up to 30 children ages 6 to 12 is an ongoing 10-week program that operates from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The program is designed to accommodate the child care needs of busy, working parents while providing kids with recreational and educational field trips, arts and crafts and special events.

During the year CRC's partnerships with the following organizations proved beneficial to every age group: Cincinnati Public Schools "Project

Connect" that provides after school tutoring for youth, the Cincinnati Police Division for scuba instruction and certification for teens, and Happen Art

Over the Rhine Center

Studio, a hands-on mentor/child performing arts program. And for the second consecutive year, the State of Ohio provided scholarships for teens to attend a national drug conference. An adult neighborhood basketball league, formed in 1999, has proven a popular and well represented activity. The CRC's partnership with the City of Kansas City, Missouri enabled the basketball team to attend the Kansas City Mayor's Midnight Basketball Tournament.

The facility also plays a vital role in providing space for anyone in need during heat and cold emergencies. Plans for the year 2000 include renovation of the existing facility and a new teen lounge.

1999 Revenues & Expenditures

	Revenues	Expenditures
Region 1	546,546	2,685,431
Region 2	592,941	2,668,187
Region 3	537,870	2,910,863
Region 4	553,887	2,460,601
Golf	6,711,501	5,914,654
Seniors/Special Populations	375,041	1,435,811
Athletics	481,497	904,889
Waterfront	1,261,343	1,707,841
Administration	220,499	4,235,225
TOTALS	11,281,124	24,923,502
Donations (included above)	172,721	
Capital Expenditures		9,043,407

Note: expenses include year-end encumbrances

1999 Operations

Athletic field permit attendance	3,994,588
Central Riverfront attendance*	2,559,208
Central Riverfront event rentals	69
Fountain Square event permits	111
Ice rink admissions	16,162
Golf rounds played	393,209
Recreation Centers	1,035,297
Rowing and Fitness Center attendance	44,887
Senior Centers	168,053
Showboat Majestic attendance	43,044
Therapeutics attendance	14,125
Volunteer hours	47,056
*includes Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point, Public Landing and Yeatman’s Cove	

Cincinnati Recreation Commission Members

Daniel J. Gilday, *President*
Denise M. Driehaus, *Vice President*
Lynn Marmer
Francis P. Russell
Rev. Kazava Smith

Wayne Bain, *Director*
Dianne Hoover, *Superintendent*
Nathaniel Wilkins, *Superintendent*

Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation Members

James G. Keys, Jr., *President*
Robert B. Horine, III
Frank Dawson
Marcia Luken
Mark Schoettmer

Members of Cincinnati’s City Council

Charlie Luken, *Mayor*
Minette Cooper, *Vice Mayor*
Paul Booth
Pat DeWine
Phil Heimlich
Todd Portune
Alicia Reece
James Tarbell
Charlie Winburn

John F. Shirey, *City Manager*



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